



# How to Install the Arduino IDE for Windows

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## TOOLS:

- [Computer running Windows \(1\)](#)



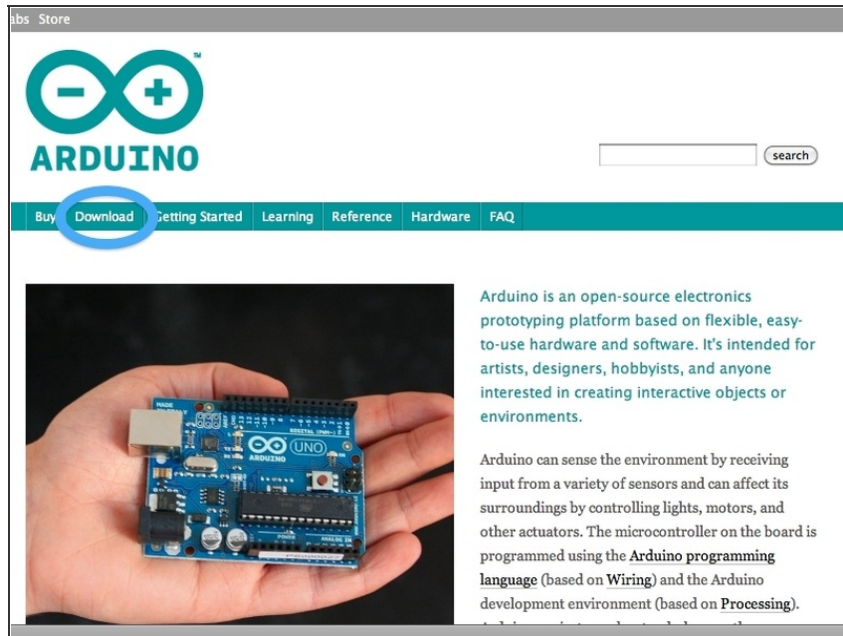
## PARTS:

- [Arduino \(1\)](#)
- [USB A to B cable \(1\)](#)
- [LED \(1\)](#)

## SUMMARY

You can't program an Arduino without the IDE! Some of the things that I've made are made with Arduinos. So, how do you install the IDE? These instructions will tell you how.

## Step 1 — Download the software



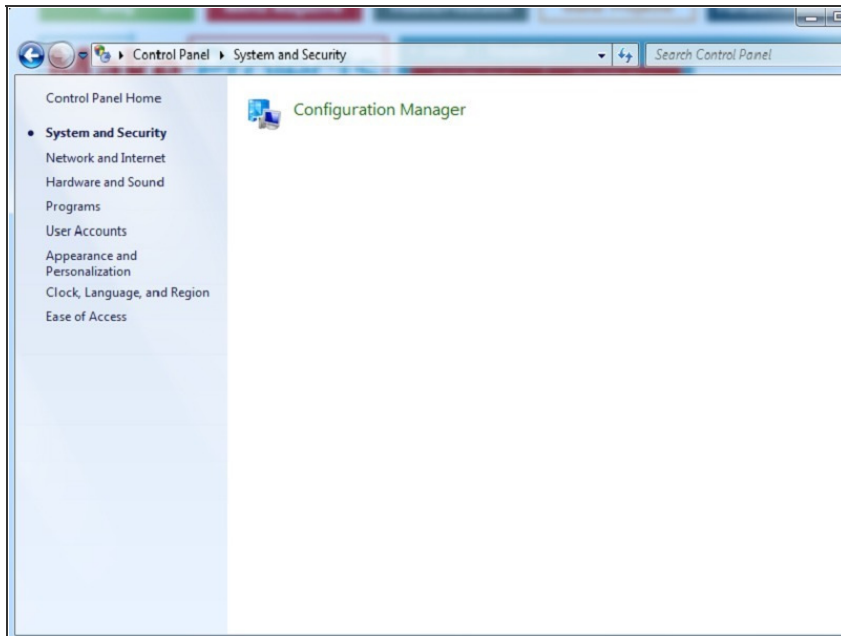
- Go to <http://www.arduino.cc>.  
Download the latest software and save the file to your hard drive.

## **Step 2 — Unzip and install the files**

7-Zip	9/21/2012 10:43 AM	File folder
Adobe	12/27/2012 9:29 AM	File folder
Audacity	9/21/2012 12:04 PM	File folder
Common Files	12/27/2012 9:29 AM	File folder
DVD Maker	6/3/2012 12:26 AM	File folder
Google	9/21/2012 12:05 PM	File folder
GUMF095.tmp	5/11/2012 7:15 PM	File folder
IDT	11/1/2012 2:35 PM	File folder
Intel	7/18/2012 10:17 AM	File folder
Internet Explorer	6/3/2012 12:26 AM	File folder
Java	9/21/2012 10:36 AM	File folder
Microsoft Analysis Services	4/27/2012 10:36 PM	File folder
Microsoft Office	4/27/2012 10:46 PM	File folder
Microsoft Policy Platform	5/11/2012 7:16 PM	File folder
Microsoft Security Client	7/18/2012 10:26 AM	File folder
Microsoft Silverlight	2/5/2013 12:36 PM	File folder
Microsoft SQL Server Compact Edition	11/28/2012 12:46 ...	File folder
Microsoft Sync Framework	4/27/2012 10:43 PM	File folder
Microsoft Synchronization Services	4/27/2012 10:44 PM	File folder
Microsoft Visual Studio 8	4/27/2012 10:37 PM	File folder

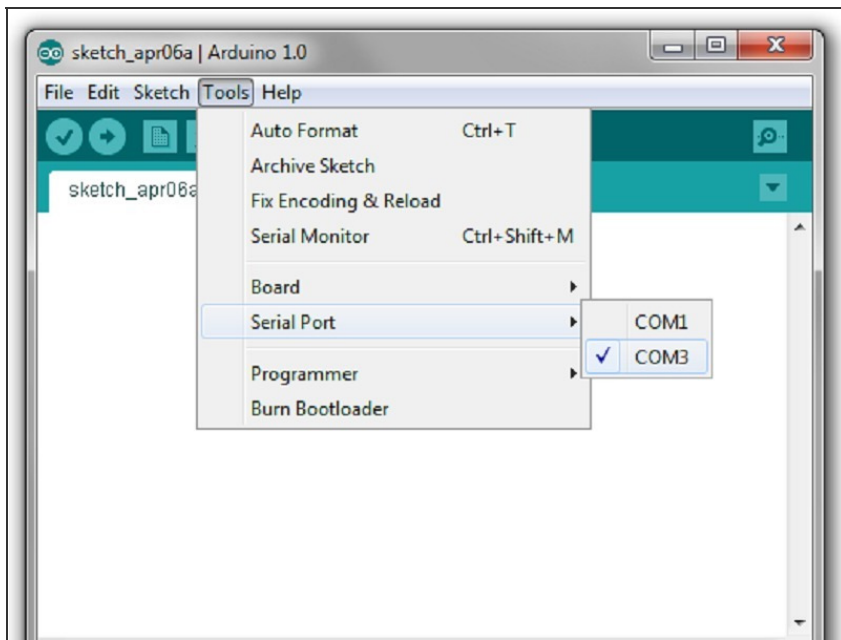
- Navigate to the folder where you placed the downloaded file. The Arduino IDE is distributed as a .zip file, so you'll have to unzip it.
- If you have an older version of Windows, such as XP, you will need a third-party unzip utility. [Cam UnZip](#) is one such program and it's free.
- Newer versions of Windows, such as Windows 7, are able to read the .zip file without special software. In this case, the .zip file will appear as a folder. Double-click the folder to open it.
- In either case, inside the .zip file you will find a single folder named something like `arduino-1.0.3`. If you are using Windows 7, simply drag and drop this folder into `C:\Program Files`, and all of the files will be unzipped and copied.
- If you are using a third-party unzip program, the procedure for unzipping the file will depend on the individual program but the destination will be the same.
- To create a desktop icon for the IDE, go to `C:\Program Files` and open the newly created Arduino folder. Right-click on `arduino.exe` and select **Send to > Desktop (create shortcut)**.

### Step 3 — Installing the drivers



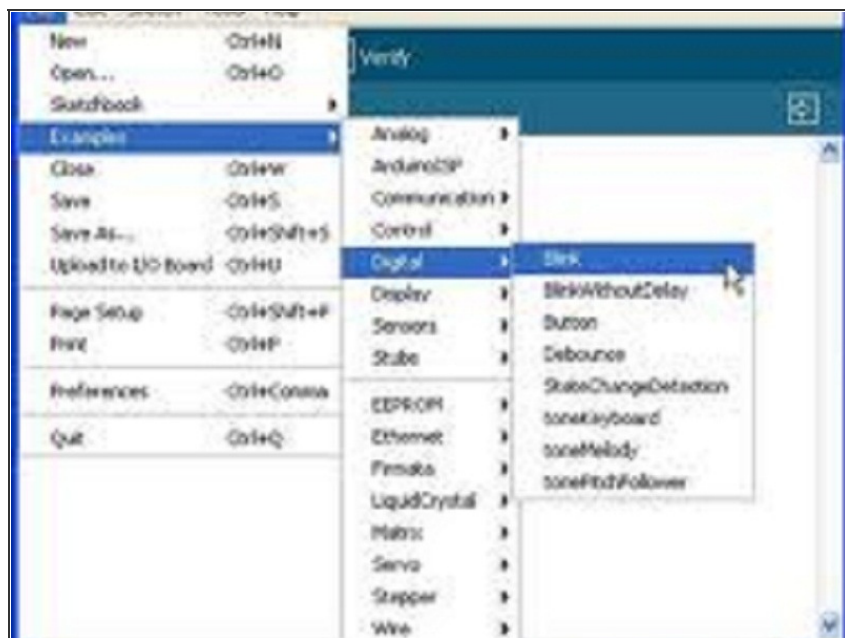
- Plug the Arduino into your computer using the USB cable. Go to **Start > Control Panel > System and Security > Device Manger**. You should see the words "Arduino Uno" (or whatever Arduino you're using).
- Click **Update Driver Software > Browse**. Then select the driver for your Arduino in `C:\Program Files\arduino-x.x.x\drivers`. Click **Next**. You're done!!

### Step 4 — Set up the IDE



- Double-click on the shortcut you made earlier to start the IDE. Go to **Tools > Serial Port** and select the COM port that the Arduino is connected to. (You can find out which one you're using by going back to the device manager.) Under **Tools > Board** select the Arduino board you're using.

## Step 5 — Your first program!



- Keep the Arduino plugged in so that you can program it. Go to **Files > Examples > Basics > Blink**. Then press the reset button on the Arduino and click **Upload**.
- If all went well, you should see the message "Done uploading" on the bottom of the IDE screen. Plug an LED into pins digital 13 and ground. It should blink. If it doesn't, then flip the pins around.
- Happy making!

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